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Indexed

(1)

File No. 41/5/50-Public.

19 50 .

Collection No.

Government of India.

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS.

PUBLIC SECTION.

Pres. Serial Nos.

Subject.

NATIONAL FLAG:

Question of allowing Indians in Indo-China to stick paper flags on the windscreens of their cars and in their shops to familiarise the local people with their nationality in the times of danger such as riot.

Previous References.

Later References.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(2)

Ministry of Home Affairs.
Public.

pp.1-3/cor.

Serial No. 1 (Receipt)

In order to save Indians' lives and property in times of danger such as riots, the Consulate-General of India in Saigon has suggested that Indians in Saigon should stick paper flags on the windscreens of their cars and in their shops to familiarise the local people with the nationality of Indians and has enquired whether we may have any objection to such a proposal. In the peculiar circumstances as stated, we may, perhaps, have no objection to the proposal. Submitted for orders.

RVS
3.4.50.

A V Raman
3.4.50.

US(VB) 3/4

18/8/AFN/1

4 paras. Copy this down at Cor. p.2.

The Consul-General has himself rightly appreciated that it would not be free from objection to allowing the Indians in Saigon to fly the Indian Flag on motor cars and houses. His only proposal is that in times of danger, (such as riot), Indians should be permitted to stick paper flags on the windscreens of their cars and in their shop windows or outside shop and house doors to acquaint the local people of the nationality of the owner. This course has been clearly suggested for abnormal occasions and we need have no objection to it.

4.4.50

Secretary.

4/4

Reference notes above.
A draft memo. to E.A. Ministry is put up for approval.

RVS 4/4 RVS 6/4 US/VB 5/4

RVS 5.4.50.

Sno 2 (issue) A V Raman
5.4.50.

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(3)

* Serial No. 3 (Receipt). * p.4/cor.

For information only. We were consulted vide our memorandum No.F.41/5/50-Public, % p.3/cor. dated the 5th April 1950.

10.4.50.

A V Raman
11.4.50

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. No. 1

Special Messenger

IMMEDIATE.

No.D.1621-IANZ/50,
Government of India
Ministry of External Affairs

New Delhi, the 3rd April, 1950

MEMORANDUM

Sub:- Flying Indian national flag by Indians in Indo-China in their shop etc.

....

The undersigned is directed to forward herewith a copy of a letter No.12(14), dated the 24th March 1950, from the Consul General for India at Saigon on the above subject and to request the favour of material for a reply to the question raised by the Consul General in the last sentence of para 3 of his letter referred to above.

Under Secretary.

The Ministry of Home Affairs.

KLN.1.4.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

(3)

Copy of letter No.12(14) dated 24th March 1950, from Consulate-General of India Saigon, to Under Secy. to the Govt. of India, Ministry of E.A., New Delh

.....

Indians here have asked me to give them permission to display flags on their cars, houses and shops daily as a measure of security. Owing to last Sunday's demonstration against the present regime and subsequent attempts on the part of Viet Minh sympathisers to call on shopkeepers to suspend business, there is growing uneasiness among Indians that in the general confusion on future occasions their property may be subjected to unintentional damage. Up to the present there is no feeling against Indians.

2. There is some justification for the request because British and American nationals who are not on the consular staff fly flags on their cars (but not on houses and shops) to proclaim their nationality to Viet Minh agents. They have been generally left alone. In the past Indians had no need for similar protection owing to their unmistakable costume and colour.

I cannot recommend the flying of the Indian flag on motor cars and houses in the manner adopted by the consular corps partly because permission would have to be secured from the French authorities who may not be willing to give it. On the other hand, in times of danger (such as a riot) to save Indians' lives or property, it seems right that they should have recourse to the flag if it can save them. The question which needs an answer is: Can Indians stick paper flags on the windscreens of their cars and in their shop windows or outside shop and house doors to familiarise the local people with the nationality of

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of the owners.

I should be grateful for a reply by cable as the question raised is most urgent.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

S. No. 2

IMMEDIATE.

No.F.41/5/50-Public.
Government of India.
Ministry of Home Affairs.

New Delhi-3, the 5 April 1950.

MEMORANDUM.

Subject:-National Flag:
Proposal to allow Indians in Indo-China to stick paper flags on the windscreens of their cars and in their shops to familiarise the local people with their nationality in the times of danger (such as riot).

....

88.1-2/Cor.

With reference to External Affairs Ministry's memorandum No.D.1621-IANZ/50, dated the 3rd April 1950 on the above subject, the undersigned is directed to say that the Ministry of Home Affairs have no objection to the proposal of the Consulate General of India in Saigon that in times of danger (such as a riot) to save Indians' lives and property, Indians should be permitted to stick paper flags on the windscreens of their cars and in their shop windows or outside shop and house doors to acquaint the local people of the nationality of the owner.

(A.V.Raman)
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To

The Ministry of External Affairs.

"Suraj" 5/4/50.

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S.No 3 (8)

CCB No. 2361

Telegram RESTRICTED

From ..... Foreign, New Delhi.
To ..... India, Saigon.

DTO APR 071119

IMMEDIATE

No.2361. Your letter No.12(14) of the 24th March. NO objection to your proposal that in times of serious danger (such as a riot) to save their lives and property, Indians should be permitted to stick paper flags on windscreens of their cars and in their shop windows or outside shop and house doors to acquaint the local people of the nationality of the owner.

PPS TO PM, PS TO PM, APS TO PM(4), DY MINISTER, SG, FS, ADDL SECY, JSW, JSE, DS(SEA), US(SEA), IANZ Br.(4), Miny of Home Affairs.

SEEKAND(21)
7-4-1950.

Superintendent CCB.

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA